

1 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2 1. A pallet assembly comprising:
 3 a first deck member;
 4 a second deck member mounted to the first deck member, the second deck
 5 member having a first predetermined fire retardancy;
 6 a third deck member spaced from the second deck member;
 7 a fourth deck member mounted to the third deck member, the fourth deck
 8 member having a second predetermined fire retardancy; and
 9 at least one column member extending between the second and third deck
 10 members, the at least one column having a third predetermined fire retardancy lower
 11 than that of the second and fourth decks.

12 2. The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the at least one column member
 13 has a first end and a second end, the first end mounted to the second deck member,
 14 and the second end mounted to the third deck member.

15 3. The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the first deck member has an
 16 other predetermined fire retardancy less than that of the second deck member.

17 4. The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the third deck member has an
 18 other predetermined fire retardancy less than that of the second deck member.

19 5. The pallet assembly of claim 1 wherein the third deck member has a
 20 fire retardancy substantially equivalent to that of the at least one column member.

21 6. The pallet assembly of claim 1, further comprising at least one elongated
 22 reinforcement member extending within at least one of the top and bottom decks.

23 7. The pallet assembly of claim 1, wherein the top member and mid-top
 24 member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

25 8. The pallet assembly of claim 1, wherein the bottom member and mid-
 26 bottom member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

1 9. A pallet assembly comprising:
2 a top deck having a top deck upper surface and a top deck lower surface, the
3 top deck having a first predetermined fire retardancy;
4 a bottom deck having a bottom deck upper surface and a bottom deck lower
5 surface, the bottom deck spaced apart from the top deck and having a second
6 predetermined fire retardancy; and
7 at least one column extending between the top deck and bottom deck, the at
8 least one column having an other fire retardancy lower than at least one of the first
9 and second fire retardancies.

10 10. The pallet assembly of claim 9, further comprising at least one
11 elongated reinforcement member extending within at least one of the top and bottom
12 decks.

13 11. The pallet assembly of claim 9, wherein the top deck comprises a top
14 member and a mid-top member which are joined together.

15 12. The pallet assembly of claim 11, wherein the top member and mid-top
16 member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

17 13. The pallet assembly of claim 11, wherein the bottom deck comprises
18 a bottom member and a mid-bottom member.

19 14. The pallet assembly of claim 13, wherein the bottom member and
20 mid-bottom member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

21 15. The pallet assembly of claim 9, wherein the top deck has a plurality
22 of box beam sections disposed therein between the top deck upper surface and the
23 top deck lower surface.

24 16. The pallet assembly of claim 9, wherein the bottom deck has a
25 plurality of box beam sections disposed therein between the bottom deck upper
26 surface and the bottom deck lower surface.

1 17. A pallet assembly comprising:
2 a first deck member;
3 a second deck member mounted to the first deck member, the second deck
4 member having a predetermined fire retardancy;
5 a third deck member spaced from the second deck member;
6 a fourth deck member mounted to the third deck member; and
7 at least one column member extending between the second and third deck
8 members and attached thereto,
9 wherein the first deck member, third deck member, fourth deck member and
10 the at least one column member each has an other predetermined fire retardancy
11 which is less than that of the second deck member.

12 18. The pallet assembly of claim 17 wherein the at least one column
13 member has a first column end and a second column end, the first column end
14 mounted to the second deck member, and the second column end mounted to the
15 third deck member.

16 19. The pallet assembly of claim 17, further comprising at least one
17 elongated reinforcement member extending within at least one of the top and bottom
18 decks.

19 20. The pallet assembly of claim 17, wherein the top member and mid-top
20 member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

21 21. The pallet assembly of claim 17, wherein the bottom member and
22 mid-bottom member have mating ribbed surfaces which are attached to each other.

23 22. A pallet assembly comprising:
24 a horizontally-disposed first portion formed of a polymeric material and
25 having a first top surface and a first bottom surface, the first portion having a first
26 predetermined fire retardancy;
27 a horizontally-disposed second portion formed of a polymeric material and
28 having a second top surface and a second bottom surface, the second portion having
29 a second predetermined fire retardancy;

1 at least one vertically-disposed portion extending between the first portion
2 and second portion and having an other predetermined fire retardancy less than that
3 of the first and second portions.

4 23. The pallet assembly of claim 22, wherein the first portion is a pallet
5 top deck, the second portion is a pallet bottom deck, and the vertically-disposed
6 portion is a column.